Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A data access method for accessing data in an on-vehicle information device having an on-vehicle memory unit that allows data stored therein to be read out and overwritten by an external apparatus and an on-vehicle control unit that executes a data read and a data overwrite by controlling the on-vehicle memory unit, comprising:

supplying power to the on-vehicle information device from the external apparatus when a power switch at the on-vehicle information device is in an OFF state, and

reading out and overwriting the data in the on-vehicle memory unit and overwriting the data through control implemented by the external apparatus while supplying power to the on-vehicle information devices from the external apparatus when a power switch at the on-vehicle information device is in an OFF state.

2.   (Original) A data access method according to claim 1, further comprising:

controlling the on-vehicle memory unit by the on-vehicle control unit until

a data read or a data overwrite is started by the external apparatus when the

power switch of the on-vehicle information device is in an ON state, and

controlling the on-vehicle memory unit to read out and overwrite the data

through control implemented by the external apparatus once the data read or the

data overwrite is started by the external apparatus.

3.   (Original) A data access method according to claim 1, further comprising:

inhibiting the on-vehicle control unit from controlling the on-vehicle

memory unit when the data in the on-vehicle memory unit are read out or

rewritten through control implemented by the external apparatus.

4.   (Original) A data access method according to claim 1, further comprising:

indicating the state of control in which the on-vehicle memory unit is

controlled by the external apparatus when data in the on-vehicle memory unit

are read out or overwritten through control implemented by the external

apparatus.

5.   (Original) A data access method according to claim 1, wherein:

the information device is connected with the external apparatus via a

mounting slot for a portable external storage device.

6.   (Original) A data access system comprising:

an on-vehicle information device having an on-vehicle memory unit that

allows data stored therein to be read and overwritten from the outside, an on-

vehicle control unit that executes a data read out and a data overwrite by

controlling the on-vehicle memory unit and an on-vehicle interface unit that

executes conversion of a control signal exchanged between the on-vehicle

memory unit and the on-vehicle control unit; and

a data access apparatus having an external memory unit having stored

therein data to be used to overwrite data in the on-vehicle memory unit, an

external control unit that reads out data in the on-vehicle memory unit and

overwrites the data in the on-vehicle memory unit with data in the external

memory unit by controlling the external memory unit and the on-vehicle memory

unit , and an external interface unit that converts a control signal input and

output between the external memory unit and the on-vehicle control unit and

between the on-vehicle memory unit and the on-vehicle control unit, wherein:

the information device further includes a selector switch that selects the

on-vehicle control unit and the on-vehicle interface unit to be connected with the

on-vehicle memory unit until the data access apparatus outputs a changeover

command and allows the external control unit and the external interface unit to

be connected with the on-vehicle memory unit after the changeover command is

output.